

DNREC's First State Heritage Park's 'First Saturday in the First State' Jan. 5 presents programs including a history of the duPont family

Photo: Visitors hear the story of the Golden Fleece Tavern and other sites important to Delaware's history located on The Green in Dover.

DOVER – From exploring the developments of the Victorian era and how it shaped Dover, to the duPont family's place in the history of Delaware, First State Heritage Park's "First Saturday in the First State" Jan. 5 offers much to see and do.

Here is a list of programs and activities on Saturday, January 5, 2019:

9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Steam, Steel, and Streets: A Very Victorian Revolution (John Bell House on The Green, 43 The Green)

The end of the 19th century saw a flurry of changes in cities and towns across the Western world, and Dover was no different. Explore the advancements and developments of the Victorian era and how they shaped Dover – then and now.

A Capitol Experience (Legislative Hall, 411 Legislative Avenue)

Tour Delaware's state capital building, and experience Delaware history. Photo ID is required for all adults entering the building.

Biggs Kids: Peace! (Biggs Museum of American Art, 406 Federal Street)

This program celebrates the role each of us plays in making the world a better place. Visitors are encouraged to add their own pictures depicting peace to a giant, community-made peace sign.

Ringin' in the New Year with Jazz (Johnson Victrola Museum, 275 South New Street)

Guided tours will include classic jazz music while visitors learn how the Victor Talking Machine Company was instrumental in bringing the New Orleans sound to the entire globe.

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tours of the Governor's House At Woodburn (The Governor's House, 151 Kings Highway)

Enjoy guided tours of the official residence of Delaware's Governor since 1965, and Hall House, the Governor's guest house.

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Dover's Heroes of the Revolution Walking Tour (Meet at the John Bell House on The Green, 43 The Green)

Discover how Dover was a hotbed of activity during the struggle for American Independence. Tours begin on the half hour.

10:30 a.m.

The duPont Family: A Brief Introduction (Delaware Public Archives, 121 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard)

The duPont family has been closely tied to Delaware from 1802 to the present. Historian Lucas R. Clawson will answer questions and discuss the duPont family's place in history.

1:00 p.m.

Divided Delaware (25 The Green – The Old State House)

This in-depth presentation will analyze three important moments during which divisions prevented greater social change from occurring in Delaware.

1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

The Once and Future Courthouse (Kent County Courthouse, 38 The Green, Courtroom #1)

From the 1690s to the present, find out how this site went from a courthouse to a hotel and back again.

Admission to all park sites and programs is free. Centrally-located free parking is available at the [First State Heritage Park](#) Welcome Center and Galleries, located at 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard North. For more information about “First Saturday” events and all First State Heritage Park programs, please call 302-739-9194 or visit destateparks.com/History/FirstStateHeritage.

First State Heritage Park is Delaware’s first urban “park without boundaries,” linking historic and cultural sites in the city that has been the seat of state government since 1777. The park is a partnership of state agencies under the leadership of DNREC’s Division of Parks & Recreation, working in collaboration with city and county government, nonprofit organizations and the private sector.

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